

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2006 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING****1. Call to Order**

The East Greenwich School Committee met on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 in the East Greenwich High School Auditorium. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Vice-Chair Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Dr. Ross, Steve Gregson, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, Robert Wilmarth, Director of Facilities, and Jerry Nettik, Technology Director.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

3. State of District**a. Superintendent's Update****b. Reports – Health Care Consultant**

Mr. Cardello and Mr. Calise from the Cornerstone Group gave a report on Health Care. The group was asked to see if the School Committee should continue to purchase Health Care from West Bay Community Health, or have a joint purchase with the town. They stated that more employees should take advantage of mail order medications. Mr. Calise stated that the school district should consider a stop loss contract. He mentioned that West Bay is not under the jurisdiction of the DBR, and not held to the same

standards. He added that the executive director runs the show. Mr. Calise stated that members need to be educated for cost savings. Mrs. Friedemann asked if the school department was at any risk now. Mr. Calise responded that it is not an immediate concern, but he needs to obtain the information from West Bay. The contract with West Bay expires on April 1, and we need to go to market on stop loss coverage. Dr. Ross feels that the Cornerstone Group should have met with West Bay first to address these concerns. Mr. Meyers requested a work session with health care on the agenda.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Megan Nugent, Student Council Representative, stated her concerns with the student parking lot. She also noted that the high school has a website forthcoming, www.eghs.info.

5. Approval of Minutes

February 28 School Committee meeting. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the minutes for the February 28, 2006 School Committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Recognitions-There were no recognitions.

7. Vote on adoption of Fiscal Year 2007 Budget

Mr. Meyers presented updated budget figures and noted that the building maintenance fund is a priority. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Bradley to approve a budget figure of \$29,451,224. Mrs. Friedemann asked if the Cole principal replacement is getting more than a 3.7% raise. Mr. Meyers responded that Mr. Zajac will receive a \$5,000 raise for the 2006-2007 school year. Mrs.

Friedemann feels that Mr. Zajac should complete the work first and then be given a raise after he is evaluated. Mrs. Friedemann made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to remove \$5,000 from the budget. Mr. Martin feels that Mr. Zajac

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has a proven track record and has performed as well as the assistant principal. On the vote to remove the \$5,000 from the budget, Mrs. Cienki, Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Gregson voted yes, and Mr. Bradley, Dr. Ross, Mr. Day and Mr. Martin voted no. The motion did not pass.

Questions arose about Medicaid money and if it should go back into the general fund. Mr. Meyers answered that it is a federal program and we receive reimbursement for services already performed which are used for unusual special education costs and the extended year summer program. Mrs. Crawford is preparing a Medicaid analysis. Mrs. Friedemann feels that money for the extended year summer program should be put into the budget, and Medicaid should not be a restricted fund. Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to add \$253,000 to the budget for special education equipment and the extended year summer program. The motion passed with Mrs. Cienki voting no. Mrs. Cienki feels that the budget was just increased and we should not go back. Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to take \$65,000 out of the budget for the senior project coordinator. He feels that the job should be done by the guidance department. Mr. Meyers feels that new graduation requirements will be a chore to implement, and it is too much work for the guidance department. Mr. Levine feels it is

inappropriate to ask the guidance staff. Dr. Ross feels that someone needs to run it, since students will not graduate without the requirement. Mrs. Mattos feels that students should manage their own portfolios. On the motion to cut \$65,000 from the budget, Mr. Gregson and Mrs. Friedemann voted yes, and Mr. Bradley, Dr. Ross, Mr. Martin, Mr. Day and Mrs. Cienki voted no. The motion did not pass.

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Friedemann to cut \$2700 out of the budget for ticket takers at sports events. The motion passed with Mr. Martin and Mr. Day voting no.

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to vote on a budget figure of \$29,701,527 for fiscal year 2007. Mrs. Cienki, Mr. Gregson and Ms. Friedemann voted no, and Mr. Bradley, Dr. Ross, Mr. Day and Mr. Martin voted yes. The motion passed.

8. New Business

8.1a Appointments

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Mr. martin to approve the following appointments:

Tim McPartlin, Mock Trial Advisor for East Greenwich High School

Deb McMullen, Volleyball Intramural Coach at Cole

COACHES AND ASSISTANT COACHES FOR SPRING SEASON

Scott Reslow, Assistant Boys' Varsity Volleyball Coach

Stanley Johnson, Varsity Girls' Outdoor Track Head Coach

Matthew Records, Junior Varsity Baseball Coach

Robert Petrucci, Head Girls' Softball Coach

Lisa MacFarlane, Assistant Girls' Softball Coach

Jennifer Kinsella, Assistant Boys' Outdoor Track Coach
Brian Hesford, Head Boys' Volleyball coach
Gregor Johnson, Varsity Girls; Outdoor Track Assistant Coach
Peter Fitzpatrick, Head Boys' Tennis Coach
Robert Downey, Head Baseball coach
Robert Corr, Head Boys Lacrosse Coach
Marc Brocato, Head Golf Coach

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Jesus Berrio, Head Boys' Track Coach
James Areson, Head Girls' Lacrosse Coach

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Second Reading and Vote on Supplemental Materials Policy

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the supplemental materials policy. The motion passed unanimously.

10. First Reading on Proposed Plagiarism Policy

Mr. Greg DeCubellis, English Department Head, noted that the policy is the academic integrity piece that is tied into the six pillars of character. He stated that the aim is to foster good citizenship, adding that there is less cheating when students know the faculty is committed to academic integrity. Mrs. Friedemann asked for parent input first. Mr. Meyers requests that the policy be put on the district list serve, and have it reviewed by the school attorney.

11. School Calendar for 2006-2007 school year.

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the school calendar for 2006-2007. The motion passed with

Mrs. Cienki voting no.

12. New Agreement for Constellation New Energy (Electric Supply)

Mr. Wilmarth stated that buying energy at today's rate for next year is a good idea because of the electric company increases.

13. Condition of Boys Bathroom at Cole (student request)

Bryan Neaves gave a slide presentation about the disrepair of the boys' bathrooms at Cole. Dr. Ross asked to have the Cole staff look into these issues and get back to the Committee. Mrs. Joanne Leach thanked Bryan for his presentation and asked that hot water be brought into the bathrooms.

14. Smart Board Presentation by Ten Corp.

Ten Corp made a presentation on the Promethean System for classrooms. They stated that 15,000 pieces are in the system's resource library and also software for grades K-12 is available.

15. Vote on Awarding Bid for EGHS Parking Lot Reconstruction to J.H. Lynch & Sons

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to award the bid for the high school parking lot to J.H. Lynch & Sons in the amount of \$631,011. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Vote on Awarding Bid for New Fire Alarm Systems at EGHS to Rayco and Meadowbrook Farms School to James. J. O'Rourke, Inc.

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve the bid for fire alarms as follows: \$88,700 to James O'Rourke for Meadowbrook and \$327,300 to Rayco for the high school.

17. Vote on Awarding Bid for Copy Machines

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the bid for copy machines to Axion in the amount of \$21,580 per year. The motion passed unanimously.

18. Vote on Request to ask Town Council for \$400,000 Escrow for Technology

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Cienki to ask the Town Council for \$400,000 to purchase technology for teaching and learning at various schools. A discussion was held on the use of white boards and their usefulness. Mr. Nettik feels that maintenance costs will go down on the computers with the use of white boards. Mr. Gregson feels that the

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\$400,000 should go to decrease the budget town-wide or to do work in the maintenance area. He feels the money is better spent to fix what we already have. Mrs. Friedemann feels the timing for the request is bad, and it should be done after the budget is passed so we know our surplus. Mr. Meyers stated that newer technology purchases in the past have been through small grants and PTG fundraisers. Mr. Bradley feels that the town wants to make continuous investments in great schools. The motion to ask the town for \$400,000 for technology passed with Mrs. Friedemann and Mr. Gregson voting no.

19. Discussion on Fields and Facilities

Mr. Gregson doesn't think we will get access to Frenchtown Road, and we can't put a building on Carcieri Field because there is no

other form of access. He stated that the land should be used for fields, but if fields are built there, we have to open up one of the two rights of way. He feels the Facilities Committee needs to address this, and have the engineering firm, Kaestle Boos, review some of their concepts for developing behind the high school. Mr. Gregson feels that a bond issue for Cole needs to be discussed, as well as safety issues on the existing fields.

20. School Committee Concerns

Mr. Martin asked about recordings of meetings.

Dr. Ross noted that four meetings have been held on the budget and he hopes that in the future, the School Committee takes advantage of earlier meetings to make the cuts.

Mrs. Cienki asked about in-school suspension. She also asked if Mr. Brocato could attend a future meeting to bring his thoughts on his sabbatical.

21. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda

Mrs. Christine Mattos asked for line itemization when the town receives the school budget. She feels that the presentation of the budget needs to be better. Mr. Meyers responded that the School Committee has been told that the budget presentation is a major improvement, and feels that Mrs. Mattos' impressions are unfounded.

22. Executive Session, RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Special Education Litigation, Personnel Issues

On a motion made by Dr. Ross and seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:20 p.m. as stated above.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary